

# ALABAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

## INSIDE:

John Parker Wilson  
(the back-up quarterback)

Nick Walker  
(new tight end)

Recruiting the skill position  
players in Alabama

# CAPITAL GAINS

Athletics Director Mal Moore heads up the Crimson Tradition Campaign, a \$100 million capital improvements campaign for athletics department facilities

# "The Sack"

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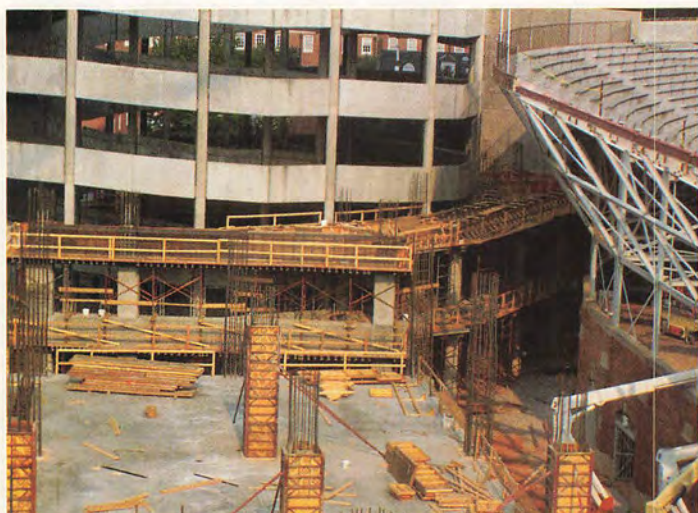
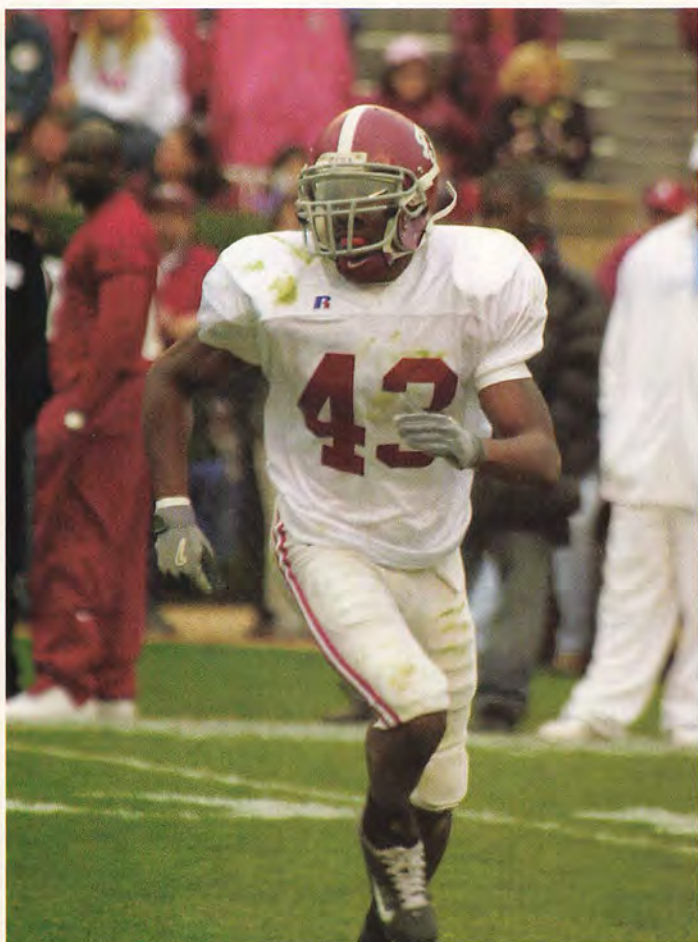
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# 'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

October 2005 • Volume 27, Issue Eight

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Centerspread Photo: Barry Fikes

## Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

I wonder what it's like to be on the hot seat?

I read from time-to-time about this being a make-or-break year for Coach Mike Shula. Most of the places I read this are in reports on the Internet. And often it was a "They say" thing from talk radio. Very anonymous.

I don't buy that. First of all, in the history of college football there possibly never has been a coach who came into such a challenging situation. Alabama had NCAA probation and scholarship cuts and a bizarre carousel of head coaching changes.

Add to that the terrible injury luck of last year. How many more players would Alabama have had to have lost before the naysayers would have agreed that it wasn't Shula's fault?

I recently read an article from over 25 years ago, an interview with Coach Paul Bryant when Alabama's 1979 team went to Gainesville to take on Coach Charley Pell's Florida Gators. Pell, who had played at Alabama under Bryant, was in his first year, a year that would result in a record of zero wins, 10 losses and one tie, and included a 40-0 loss to Alabama, which was en route to a 12-0 record and its second straight national championship.

Mike Shula was maybe 14 years old.

Coach Bryant told that reporter that a coach couldn't be judged for at least three years. No one who matters—Athletics Director Mal Moore, President Robert Witt, the Board of Trustees—is even thinking about judging Mike Shula and his staff right now.

It's good that Shula has been able to keep his staff together. The staff have proved they are good recruiters. That should not be a surprise. Coach Bryant talked about recruiting the mothers, and I can't imagine too many mothers that wouldn't be thrilled to have Mike Shula coming into their homes to recruit their sons.

Shula addressed the "hot seat" question at this year's Southeastern Conference Media Days in Birmingham. He was not defensive. He said that when you are the head football coach at Alabama you are on the hot seat from Day One.

I'm not naive. I know Mike Shula has to win big games on a regular basis. And I think he will. What I don't think is that he has to win a certain number or win against certain teams this year.

Sincerely,

Kirk McNair

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# 'Bama Scorecard

## Possible 12th Game

The NCAA has ruled that beginning in 2006, Division 1A college football teams may schedule a 12th regular season game. That has sent schools scrambling to find opponents. Alabama had not announced a 12th game for next year, but there have been numerous reports Bama will play Duke. There is expected to be a return game, but not necessarily in 2007 and not necessarily at Durham, where Duke has a very small stadium.

Although the Duke game is tentatively scheduled for October 7, it could be moved to November 18 if Auburn is willing to allow the move of the Alabama-Auburn game from November 18 to November 25. That would give Bama an open date in the middle of the season rather than playing 12 consecutive games.

Alabama and Auburn agreed to the earlier date some years ago in order to have an open date before the Southeastern Conference Championship Game.

In upcoming years, Alabama hopes to have home-and-home games with the likes of Georgia Tech, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Notre Dame. Penn State is on the long-term schedule agenda.

Alabama will open the 2006 season hosting Hawaii in expanded and remodeled Bryant-Denny Stadium, a game that is certain to draw well over 90,000 and set a new record for the largest crowd to witness a football game in the state of Alabama. Here is next year's schedule, including the tentative date with Duke:

September 2—Hawaii  
September 9—Vanderbilt  
September 16—Louisiana-Monroe  
September 23—@ Arkansas  
September 30—@ Florida  
October 7—Duke  
October 14—Ole Miss  
October 21—@ Tennessee  
October 28—Florida-International  
November 4—Mississippi State  
November 11—@ LSU  
November 18—Auburn

## Baseball Assistant

Joe Raccuia (Ruh-KOO-yah) has been named assistant baseball coach at Alabama. Raccuia comes to Alabama after spending the last two seasons as head coach at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He will serve as the Crimson Tide's hitting coach and will also work with the infielders in addition to his recruiting duties.

"I am very excited about the move and working at one of the premier schools in the country," Raccuia said. "Coach Wells (Alabama Head Coach Jim Wells) was very professional through the entire process. I am very excited to be a part of the best baseball league in the country. I am looking forward to developing players and helping get Alabama back in the College World Series."

In Raccuia's two years at Marist the team had a 58-51 record, including a 39-15 (72.2 per cent) record in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play. The 2005 squad posted a 33-21 record and captured the MAAC regular-season and post-season championships. For his efforts, he was named the 2005 MAAC Coach of the Year. The Red Foxes landed a berth in the 2005 NCAA Tournament.

In his two seasons, seven players earned All-MAAC honors under Raccuia's watch, including 2005 MAAC Pitcher of the year Chris Tracz, while Rob Ryan was named 2005 MAAC Relief Pitcher of the Year. Tracz, Ryan and Travis Musolf also earned All-Northeast Region honors, while Raccuia's teams featured nine MAAC All-Academic Team selections.

Prior to taking over at Marist, Raccuia was an assistant coach at George Mason for four years (2000-03), including being named associate head coach in his final two seasons (2002-03). While at George Mason, Raccuia was responsible for hitting and defense. In his

final season, with the Patriots, he coached four All-Conference position players, including the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Defensive Player of the Year. The 2003 squad set the school record for the highest fielding percentage (.970) and 21st nationally in defense. The squad also set the school record for stolen bases. At GMU, Raccuia helped recruit three freshman All-Americans.

Prior to his days at George Mason, Raccuia spent four years (1997-99) as the assistant head coach at The George Washington University. At GW he served as hitting coach, recruiting coordinator and worked with the position players. In his three years at GW, Raccuia coached or recruited 12 players who went on to professional careers and 14 players who earned All-Conference recognition in the Atlantic 10. The 1998 team set a school record for wins and recorded the fourth best turn-a-round in Division I play. The GW class of 2002 had five Raccuia recruited players taken in the Major League Baseball draft. Over his final two seasons with the Colonials, GW set school records in hits, homeruns, doubles, runs scored and runs batted in.

In both of his coaching stints, Raccuia has shown a commitment to the complete student-athlete. At George Mason and George Washington he served as the team's liaison with the academic coordinator. In four seasons at George Mason, 12 baseball players earned recognition for their academic success and the 2002 squad posted the best GPA in the program's history. That success shadowed the academic success he had at GW, where in his 1998 recruiting class, six of seven players graduated on time.

Raccuia began his coaching career where he played his collegiate baseball, Radford University, in 1996. He served as the assistant coach for that 1996 season, learning the coaching aspect of college baseball, as he assisted in every aspect of the Big South member, Division I program.

Raccuia played two seasons at Radford, graduating in 1995 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Social Science. He served as the team captain during the 1995 campaign, helping that squad to a school record for wins. Prior to playing at Radford, Raccuia played two seasons at Edison Community College in Fort Myers, Florida. He served as the team captain his second year, leading that 1993 team to its single-season win total.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Raccuia and his wife, Jodi, have a son, A.J., who was born February 25.

## Davis On Wooden List

Alabama basketball forward Chuck Davis has been selected to the John R. Wooden Award Pre-season Top 50.

It marks the third Wooden candidate Alabama has produced since 2002. Erwin Dudley was a top 20 Wooden finalist in 2002 and 2003 and Kennedy Winston was a finalist in 2005.

The preseason list, voted on by a national committee, is composed of 50 student-athletes who, based on last year's individual performance and team records, are the early frontrunners for college basketball's most coveted trophy, player of the year. Only two of the players that made this year's preseason list, Duke's J.J. Redick and Illinois' Dee Brown, are returning Wooden All-America players.

Davis, a Selma native, was named All-Southeastern Conference in 2005 after averaging 13.9 points and 6.8 rebounds his junior season. Davis, 6-8, led the SEC in blocked shots (1.94 per game) in 2005. He will graduate from The University with a business degree (management) in December, within three and a half years of enrollment.

The Top 50 candidates include, alphabetically, Hassan Adams (Arizona), Maurice Ager (Michigan State), Josh Boone (UConn), Brandon Bowman (Georgetown), Ronnie Brewer (Arkansas), Aaron Brooks (Oregon), Dee Brown (Illinois), Nick Caner-Medley (Maryland),

Rodney Carney (Memphis), Mardy Collins (Temple), Jameson Curry (Oklahoma State), Chuck Davis (Alabama), Glen Davis (LSU), Paul Davis (Michigan State), Taguan Dean (Louisville), Guillermo Diaz (Miami), Jared Dudley (Boston College), Jordan Farmar (UCLA), Nick Fazekas (Nevada), Daniel Gibson (Texas), Rudy Gay (UConn), Justin Gray (Wake Forest), Taj Gray (Oklahoma), Vincent Grier (Minnesota), Dan Grunfeld (Stanford), Chris Hernandez (Stanford), Jeff Horner (Iowa), Jarius Jackson (Texas Tech), Ben Jacobson (Northern Iowa), Carl Krauser (Pittsburgh), Nana (Pops) Mensah-Bonsu (George Washington), Paul Millsap (Louisiana Tech), Gerry McNamara (Syracuse), Adam Morrison (Gonzaga), Steve Novak (Marquette), Kevin Pittsnogle (West Virginia), Leon Powe (California), J.J. Redick (Duke), Rajon Rondo (Kentucky), Brandon Roy (Washington), Craig Smith (Boston College), Steven Smith (LaSalle), Curtis Stinson (Iowa State), Curtis Sumpter (Villanova), Alando Tucker (Wisconsin), P.J. Tucker (Texas), Darius Washington (Memphis), Eric Williams (Wake Forest), Sheldon Williams (Duke), and Curtis Withers (Charlotte).

## Taylor Says "Ta Ta"

Alabama basketball center Shawn Taylor has decided to transfer to Chipola Junior College in Florida. The 6-foot-11 native of Unadilla, Georgia, was a redshirt as a true freshman at Alabama in 2004 and played in 11 games in 2005. He averaged 1.6 points and 1.4 rebounds, scoring a redshirt freshman season high of five points against Georgia and four rebounds on the road at Auburn.

## Silver Medalist

A year after winning an Olympic bronze medal, Alabama swimmer Anne Poleska grabbed a silver medal at the 2005 World Championships being held in Montreal, Canada this summer.

Poleska, who closed out her Crimson Tide career with a runner-up finish at the 2005 NCAA Championships in the 200 breaststroke, finished more than a second ahead of the rest of the field in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:25.84. She finished behind Australia's Leisel Jones, whose 2:21.72 set a world record in the race. Jones was second at last summer's Olympic Games.

Poleska, a Krefeld, Germany native, was first after the preliminaries and the second seed coming out of the semi-finals. She shaved almost two seconds off her time between prelims and finals.

Poleska was the first Alabama swimmer to win an individual medal at the Olympic Games since 1984. During her Tide career, she finished in the top three in the 200 breaststroke all four years, including a pair of runner-up finishes. Her finish in Montreal was just two-hundredths of a second off her time at the Athens Olympics.

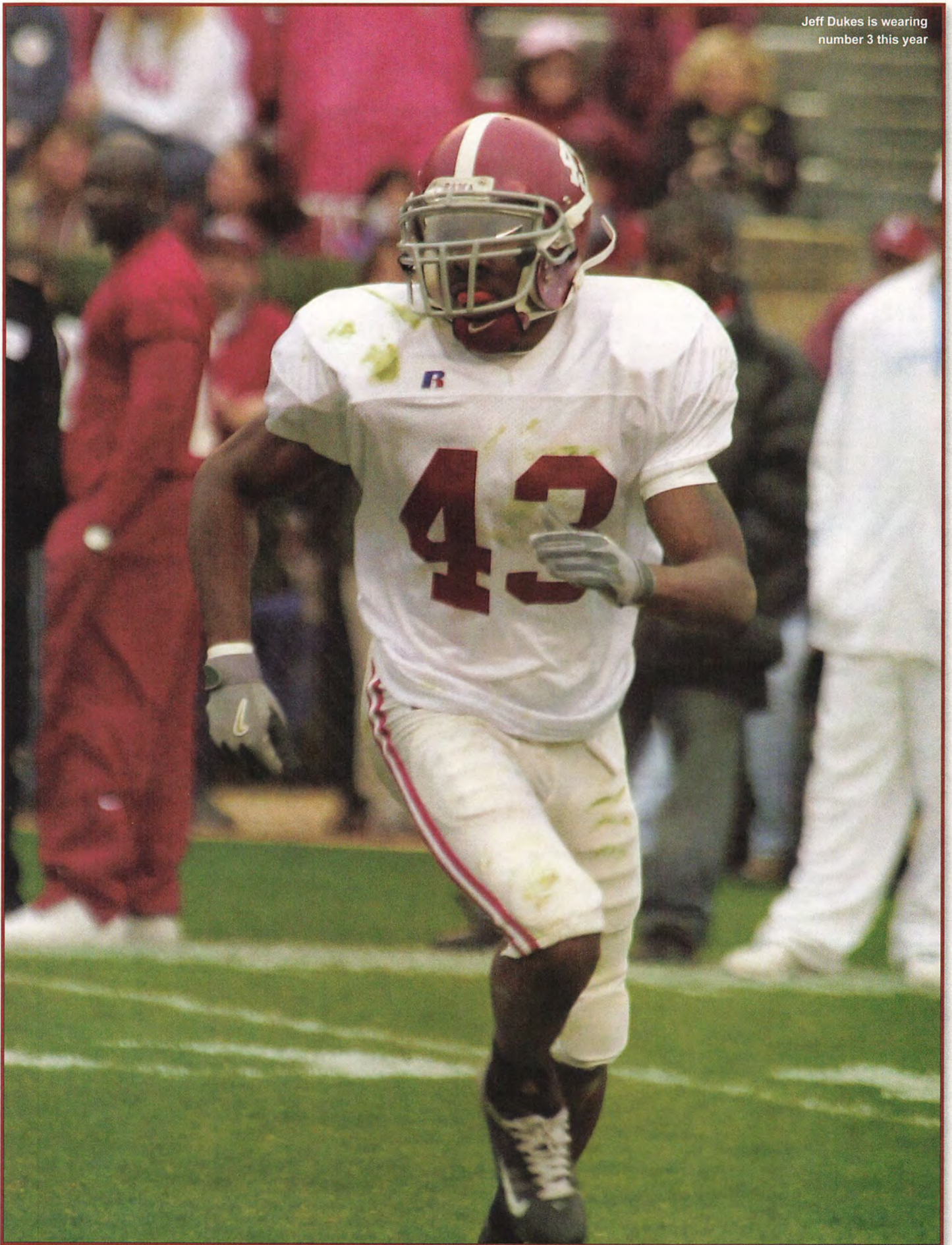
## All-America

Alabama junior Robin Stephenson can add another accolade to her collegiate resume as she has been named to the 2005 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Singles All-America Team. She is the fourth All-America in Alabama women's tennis history and the first since 1997.

Stephenson posted a 27-13 record in 2005 with 16 wins over ranked opponents. In May she made her second consecutive appearance in the NCAA singles championship draw and on February 22 became the highest ranked singles player in Alabama history when she jumped to Number Six in the ITA rankings. Stephenson finished the season ranked ninth and is the first Alabama player to end a season ranked in the top 10.

Stephenson is one of seven players from the Southeastern Conference named to the Singles All-American Team. Incredibly, she defeated all five of the conference's All-Americans that she had the opportunity to square off against last season.

Jeff Dukes is wearing  
number 3 this year



By Mitch Dobbs

# Motivated By The Bryant Legend

*Safety Jeff Dukes learned a lot of football  
from Alabama's former coach*

**P**erusing Alabama's 2005 roster and making an educated guess at which players knew the most about the legacy of Paul W. "Bear" Bryant, it might be a long time before the name of Jeff Dukes was considered. And it wouldn't be the first time the 6-3, 204-pound safety from Oxford, Mississippi, had been misjudged.

Dukes was born on April 24, 1985, more

than two years after Bryant died. He was raised in Oxford, just a 10-minute walk from what is now called Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, home to the Ole Miss Rebels.

If he had to, he could live solely on food from McDonald's and Wendy's.

His hairstyle alternates between dreadlocks and spikes.

And he knows quite a lot about Coach Bryant.

"Before every game in high school we listened to Bear Bryant," Dukes said. "We listened to all his tapes. We watched all his film. We watched everything about him. Most of the players on my team went to sleep. I stayed up and listened to his tapes just to see what he was talking about. I'd listen to what he had to say,

*continued on page 10*

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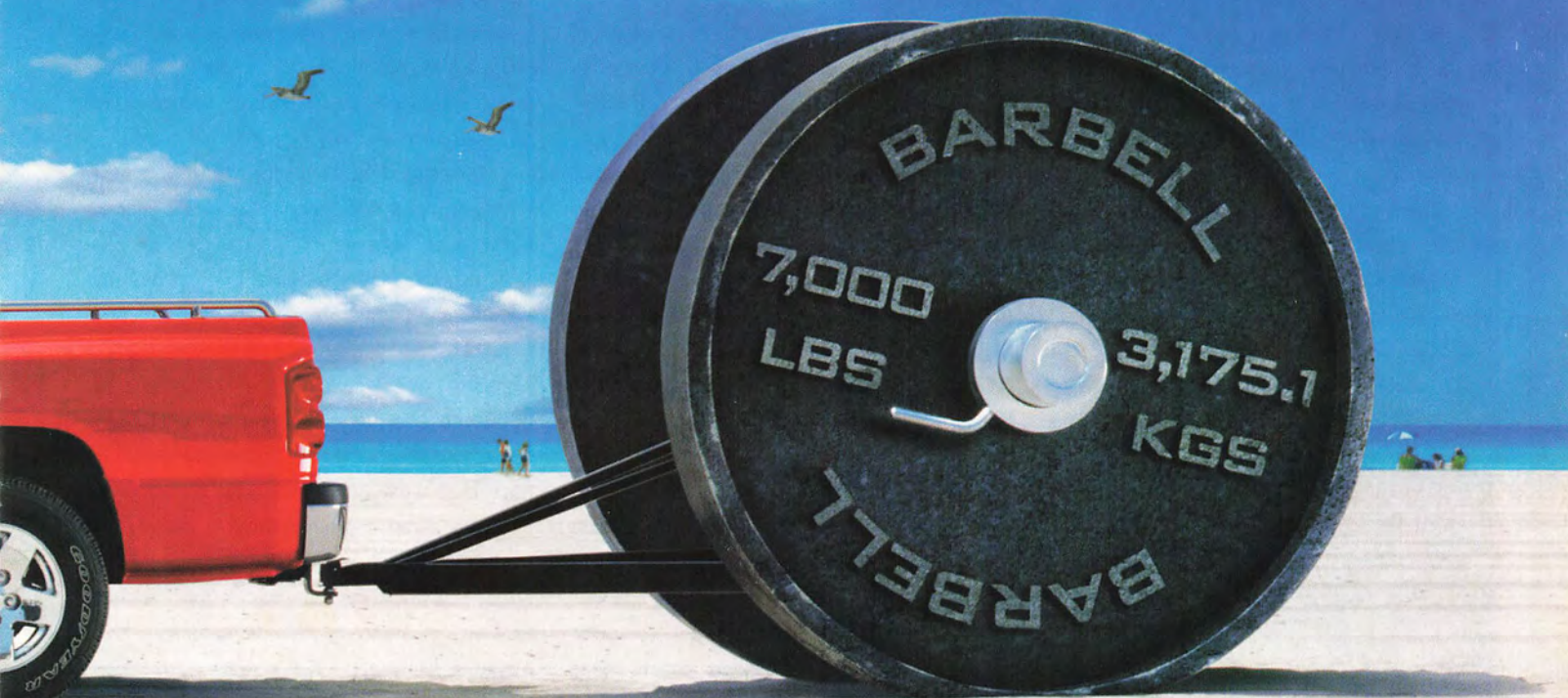
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and that motivated me."

What Dukes got was motivation, and guidance on how football should be played from the most dominant coach in the game's history.

"It was him speaking to his players," Dukes said. "We watched a lot of films on him, too. He was a motivator. Everything Alabama did was hard. They ran to the ball, they played together. What really caught my attention was being a team player. Football is not all about one person. You've got to be a team player."

Dukes absorbed the principles Bryant preached as quickly as he picked up the game of football itself. He didn't join the team until 11th grade, and it was his senior year before he ever got to play.

He was a basketball player. But when he hit the football field he made up for lost time, starring as a quarterback and safety during his senior season after floundering at linebacker the year before.

Dukes got calls and letters from coaches, but he was relatively unknown for several reasons.

"I was kind of recruited," he said. "But they were sending notes like 'We're looking at you,' but they never said they wanted me to come. I had a lot of letters—from Florida, everybody."

Coaches often key in on players by seeing

video from their junior years. Dukes didn't have any junior highlight video. Once he was discovered during his senior season, there were other questions, too. Although he did eventually qualify academically, his grades were an added concern for recruiters. Dukes was still pursued by Mississippi and South Carolina, but when signing day arrived he didn't have a scholarship offer from either school.

"South Carolina recruited me real hard," he said. "It was like they were telling me to come down, but I really didn't have any offer. I was struggling, so I guess they didn't want to waste a scholarship when I wasn't going to be qualified. But after the season I was qualified. I guess it was a late thing."

That took Dukes to Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Miss.issippi just a short drive from his home in Oxford, where his star really blew up.

"It wasn't a big deal until after my junior college year—after I made the super sophomore list," he said.

That Street & Smith's listing had several major colleges recruiting him during the summer of 2004. The schools were recruiting Dukes for the 2005 season, however, because most had filled their allotment of scholarships and

believed Dukes needed to graduate from his junior college program to be eligible at a four-year school.

"My junior college coach really wanted me to stay, so he wasn't trying to send any letters out or anything," Dukes said. "He knew I wanted to leave but he was trying to keep me around for the next year."

Dukes found help in getting to a four-year school right way from Scott Samsel, his head coach at Lafayette who had popped in all those "Bear" Bryant tapes

on Friday afternoons before games.

"He played a big part in me coming here," Dukes said. "He told me that Alabama would be the best school because of the tradition. I told him that I wanted to come to Alabama and I wanted him to give them a call so I could come."

Alabama suffered some unexpected academic casualties, and had room for another player right away. It was Assistant Coach Sparky Woods, with nearly 30 years of coaching experience and contacts, who got the call from Samsel, the Bryant admirer.

"His high school coach called me and told me about him being qualified and ready to go," Woods said. "We knew he was a good player because he was a preseason All-American and made a bunch of good plays as a freshman over there. His coach called and said he's ready to go. The coach was looking out for his player."

Dukes said his affinity for The University of Alabama dated back prior to his junior year of high school, however.

"It goes back ever since the first day my daddy came home from an Alabama game and brought me a football with just about everybody's signature," Dukes said. "He knew I wanted it, so he stayed after the game and had everybody sign it. I was probably seven years old—probably not even that old. But I'll always remember when he came home and handed me the football. I never played with it. I just sat it down. I put it on my wall and never let anybody touch it. Just look. Everything in my room is Alabama. I love Alabama. It's all about Alabama because I used to watch them on TV."

Still, it took several members of the Dukes family to convince Jeff that leaving Oxford was the best thing to do. John Dukes, Jeff's father, never said anything to try to sway his son one way or the other, but "he probably would have been mad if I had gone to Mississippi," Jeff says.

Jeff said it was his brother, John, Jr., who sat him down and talked to him about leaving Mississippi.

"My brother kept telling me I really need to get out of there," Dukes said. "My mother said she wanted me to stay and go to Ole Miss, but really she didn't want me to stay. She knew if I got hurt or anything I would end up staying at

continued on page 23



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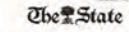
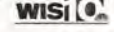








By Andrew Bone

# Skill Position Players In Alabama

*State has quantity and quality prospects in backs, receivers*

**R**ecent pre-season All-Southeastern Conference football teams selected by the media and by coaches have been remarkable for having more players who had been developed in the high schools of Alabama than in any other state. Many were surprised that more former Alabama prep stars were on the honor squads than were former high school players in such high-population and talent-rich states as Florida and Georgia.

It is no accident that the Alabama Crimson Tide, easily the dominant all-time football program in the South, has been built primarily on home-grown talent. And it is likely that Alabama high school football is so good in no small part because of the positive atmosphere for football created by Bama.

Coach Mike Shula and his Crimson Tide recruiting staff will once again add talent from within the borders of the state. Last month we looked at the top prep big men—offensive and defensive linemen, tight ends and linebackers—in Alabama. This month we look at the state's high school senior skill position prospects—offensive and defensive backs and wide receivers.

Here are the top Alabama skill position prospects by position:

## QUARTERBACK

Although Alabama signed three quarterbacks in the class of 2005, look for the coaching staff to add at least one and possibly two quarterbacks next February.

It is no secret that Alabama's top quarterback prospect is not an Alabama high school player. The honor of "most wanted" goes to Tim Tebow from Nease High School in St. Augustine, Florida. And the top-ranked quarterback in Alabama has already committed to Auburn.

But the Alabama high school quarterback cupboard is not bare. Indeed, many believe the top quarterback prospect in Alabama is actually in Bama's back yard.

Chris Smelley from American Christian in Northport, probably missed the number one ranking due to playing in the state's lowest classification. The 6-2, 205-pound signal caller threw for over 3,400 yards

during his junior year, and has been an outstanding performer at camps throughout the summer. He holds SEC offers from LSU and Ole Miss. Smelley would like to make a decision before his senior season, but without an offer from Alabama he may wait.

Another outstanding in-state quarterback is Earl Alexander from Central High School in Phenix City. Alexander is the top overall athlete in the state and he projects at several positions in college. Alexander wants his first shot at quarterback, but he is open to other positions. The 6-4, 210-pound athlete ran a 4.5 40-yard dash at the Scout.com combine and that combine increased his stock dramatically. Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Clemson, Louisville, and LSU have offered the four star prospect. Though he grew up an Alabama fan, Alexander is considering heading out-of-state. Alexander does not plan to make a decision until after his official visits, and the Alabama coaching staff does not want to lose a player of his caliber to another SEC program.

Other quarterbacks in the state on the recruiting radar include: Jeremy Helms, 6-0, 185, Russellville;

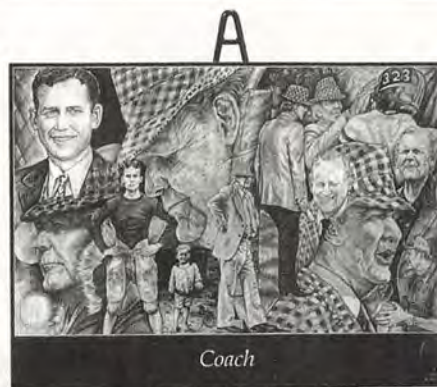
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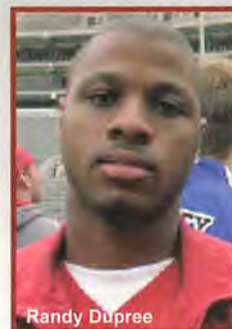
Chris Smelley



Earl Alexander



Eugene Sowell



Randy Dupree



Tim Hawthorne

Anthony Rivers, 6-3, 185, Huntsville Lee; and Anthony Speight, 6-2, 185, Bessemer Jess Lanier.

#### RUNNING BACK

Alabama signed four running backs in 2005 and three of them made it to campus. The fourth, Mike Ford of Sarasota, Florida, is expected to be at Hargrave Military this fall and will be one of the Tide's top prospects for the 2006 signing class.

The general opinion is that there are only a few top running back prospects in the senior class of Alabama high school players this year. The best are:

Eugene Sowell of Shades Valley has not put up the biggest numbers, but when he has the ball he is a work horse. The 6-0, 205-pound tailback rushed over 1,000 yards last season, and he has received offers from Auburn, LSU, Clemson, and Louisville. His older brother, Mayo Sowell, played at Auburn. During the summer, Sowell camped at Alabama and liked his camp experience and the Bama coaching staff. The Crimson Tide has yet to offer the top-ranked Alabama back, but

an offer could be in hand before the season is finished. Sowell lists his top three as Alabama, Auburn, and LSU.

Randy Dupree is considered the best back to come out of Attalla since Cadillac Williams. Though he does not have the speed Williams possessed, Dupree runs with a lot of power. His 6-0, 205-pound frame makes it tough for the opposition to make an easy tackle. Dupree rushed for over 1,500 yards last season. The Tide has offered. Dupree grew up an Alabama fan, but says Auburn is showing more interest. He would like to stay in-state.

Chris Evans of Alexandria is the most underrated running back in this year's class. The 6-0, 195-pounder rushed for 2,333 yards with 34 touchdowns last year. Evans is an exceptional student with a 4.0 GPA. Evans would like to see the in-state powerhouse schools show more interest, but not attending summer camps did not help his cause. Georgia Tech, UAB, and Jacksonville State have been the only schools to offer, and Evans is high on the Yellow Jackets. If Alabama or Auburn does not extend an offer before school begins, it is possible he will commit to Georgia Tech.

Additional running backs primed for a successful season include: Steven Shackleford, 5-9, 175, Decatur; LeAnthony Taylor, 5-10, 180, Huntsville Lee; Eric Relf, 5-10, 180, Montgomery Carver; and Arnli Stallworth, 5-10, 190, Daphne.

#### WIDE RECEIVER

It was an unpleasant surprise that Nick Kyles did not qualify academically after signing with Alabama last February, and Kyles does not appear likely to return to the Crimson Tide. Although Bama played a number of freshmen last year and has a young and adequately deep receiving corps, the Bama staff would like to add at least two wide receivers in 2006. One likelihood is Hartselle native Nikita Stover, a 2004 Tide signee now at Itawamba Junior College in Mississippi. Stover is

not playing football this year, which means he will have three years of eligibility remaining, and he has said he expects to enter The University in the spring semester.

Bama has good choices from the high school ranks. Although one top prospect, Jeff Ogren of Tuscaloosa's American Christian, committed to Clemson, the top five receiving prospects in Alabama high schools all list Alabama. The top players:

Tim Hawthorne is the top receiver in the state, and he is also listed by Scout.com as the top receiver in the South. The 6-2.5, 205 pound wide out is a record breaker as he recorded 1,360 yards with 14 touchdowns during his junior campaign breaking all Homewood records. Hawthorne had a very impressive spring participating in the Scout.com combine and out-performed all in attendance in Starkville. Over 20 schools have extended scholarship offers. He is looking for immediate playing time. Hawthorne has built a strong relationship with Bama Assistant Coach Charlie Harbison, and the Tide staff has the receiver at the top of their list. Hawthorne should be selected for the U.S. Army High School All-American game in San Antonio.

London Crawford of Mobile Davidson is a big receiver (6-2, 190) with 4.5 speed. Crawford had an impressive performance at the Scout.com combine in New Orleans, and his stock continues to rise. In his junior season, Crawford caught 21 passes for 567 yards in a run offense. He holds offers from Auburn and LSU. His top three are Alabama, Auburn, and LSU. Crawford likes the four wide offense the Tide is expecting to implement.

Jared White is the top prospect in Mobile, and he is one of the top athletes in the state. The Williamson star does it all for his team as he plays wide receiver, kick returner, and punt returner. As a junior, White recorded 1,200 yards receiving with 13 touchdowns. Off-season incidents may have lowered his stock, but he has several scholarship offers including Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Tennessee, and LSU. LSU and Alabama currently lead for his services, but the Tide will have to make up ground as the Tigers are making a strong push for his signature. When asked about playing in-state White replied, "It would be great to play at Alabama. They are the home state school." He likes the Crimson Tide, but grew up an LSU fan. He does not plan an early decision.

Cornelius Williams from Hoover is one prospect flying under the radar. At 6-1, 185 pounds, Williams needs to add weight. He doesn't have great speed, but he knows how to make plays. In Hoover's 7 v 7 invitational tournament which featured several top teams from across the country, Williams dominated the opposition. He was the difference in helping lead the Bucs to their first tournament title. Williams is the top

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London Crawford



Cornelius Williams



Terrell Zachery



Andy Davis



J.D. Douglas

Photos: Scout.com

player on the pre-season number two high school team in the country. During his junior campaign, Williams recorded 955 yards receiving against the toughest competition in the state. Southern Miss and Middle Tennessee State have offered.

Terrell Zachery from Wadley is a solid performer and will stay in-state to play college football. Zachary is an outstanding athlete. The 6-0, 190 pounder holds scholarship offers from Alabama and Auburn. Zachary plays in a lower classification, and he did not attend any summer camps therefore his exposure has been limited. He grew up an Alabama fan, but claims Auburn and Alabama are equal for his services. Zachary recorded over 1,400 yards receiving during his junior year.

Other Alabama high school receivers who could be top prospects by the end of the season include Adam Mims, 5-8, 170, Birmingham Spain Park, and Robert Pearson, 6-0, 180, Opelika.

#### DEFENSIVE BACK

Last season Alabama finished first in the nation in pass defense and defensive backfield prospects across the nation have taken notice of Bama success in developing secondary players. Although signing safeties and cornerbacks was a priority in 2005, it also will be a point of emphasis in 2006 recruiting.

The Crimson Tide has already received a commitment from one Alabama high school defensive back star. Andy Davis of Briarwood Christian in Birmingham will sign with Bama in February. Davis, 6-0, 200, was the Tide's first commitment, picking Alabama over Southern Cal. Davis is closing in on 300 career tackles. He continues the pipeline from Briarwood, from where Bama has signed Charles Hoke (2005), Simeon Castille (2004), and Tim Castille (2003).

Also in Alabama:

The Stewart brothers are a special pair. Darian is the starting wide receiver, and safety, and his brother, Jared, is the quarterback at Huntsville Lee. Both are being recruited to play safety, though Darian also projects at receiver. Darian, 6-1, 200, has the size advantage over Jared, 6-0, 180,. The twin brothers have blazing speed and are two of the top play-makers in the state. Darian is a four star prospect and recorded 800 yards receiving, and nabbed five interceptions as a junior. Jared is ranked a three star prospect and threw for over 1,000 yards last season with 12 touchdowns. Darian's offer list includes Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia Tech, and Louisville. Georgia Tech and Kentucky have offered Jared and those two teams may have an edge as the twins hope to play college ball together.

Max Lerner from Hoover continues to shine in all-star events, and J.D. Douglas from Prattville is one of the top overall players in the state. Marquez Hall from

Booker T. Washington is one of the fastest player in the South, but his height (5-8) is a factor.

Max Lerner from Hoover had a dominating performance in the Alabama Junior All-Star game, recording two interceptions and returning one for a touchdown. Lerner's shoulder injury sidelined him during spring training, but he is 100 per cent. He has offers from MTSU and Southern Miss. Lerner, 5-11, 200, grew up an Auburn fan, but is wide open with his recruitment.

J.D. Douglas from Prattville is the most physical defensive back in the state for the class of 2006. The 6-3, 200 pound safety recorded 65 tackles as a junior. Because of work commitments, Douglas did not participate in summer camps. Douglas is "a huge Alabama fan," and if the Crimson Tide offers the recent Prattville-to-Bama pipeline will continue.

Marquez Hall from Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee is one of the fastest players in the state. His 4.33-40 yard dash speed is legit. He was timed at a combine three times under a 4.35 (40). Hall recorded over 1,000 yards rushing during his junior year with 13 touchdowns. The one thing making college recruiters wary is his size. He is 5-8, 150. Hall has his first offer from Vanderbilt. Hall, an excellent kick return man, is an Alabama fan.

Additional prospects include: Kevin Felder, 5-10, 165, Clay-Chalkville; Xavier Carroll, 5-9, 170, Autaugaville; Zaccheus Etheridge, 5-11, 175, Charles Henderson of Troy; Dontrell Miller, 5-10, 165, Demopolis; Rodney Suggs, 6-0, 175, Russellville; Justin Bullard, 6-1, 185, Stanhope Elmore; Anthony Davis, 6-0, 195, Montgomery Carver; and Deon Williams, 5-10, 195, Tuscaloosa County.



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# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE

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Alabama football means championships and All-Americans and, for many, memories of a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 former Alabama players who performed in Crimson and White over a

75-year period tell us WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE, and many remember Paul "Bear" Bryant. His time as a Bama player, assistant coach, and 25 years as head coach is a major part of Alabama football, but not the only great era. There have also been national championships won under Wallace Wade and Frank Thomas and Gene Stallings. And part of WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE is former Alabama players' expectations of more national titles.

The last coach to lead Alabama to the national championship is Gene Stallings, who played and coached for Coach Bryant before becoming a Hall

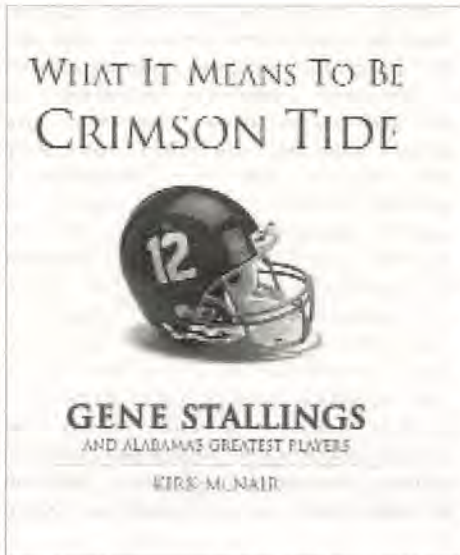
of Fame caliber coach himself.

Not only have the coaches been legendary but that stellar tradition has spawned players enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame and the NFL's Pro Football Hall of Fame. Now, Gene Stallings and 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair have collaborated to bring together many of the greatest players ever to wear the Crimson and White to share their memories in WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE-GENE STALLINGS AND ALABAMA'S GREATEST PLAYERS.

Among those sharing their memories are: from the '40s and '50s, Harry Gilmer and Bart Starr; from the '60s and '70s, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ray Perkins, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, and Ozzie Newsome; from the '80s and '90s, Mike Shula and Jay Barker. And many more, including those from the new millennium.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and also tells the story of how he did not become Alabama's head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

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# Late Again

For the third consecutive year, Alabama has added a late signee. Just weeks before the start of pre-season camp, Bama added linebacker Eryk Anderson from Smithson Valley, Texas.

In Coach Mike Shula's first season the Tide added Wallace Gilberry as a late signee. Last year Bama added Jeff Dukes.

Anders said, "The coaches had asked me to walk on two months ago. I decided not to do it. They told me if a scholarship became available they would get back in touch with me. They called me and said a player could not get in school, and I had a scholarship."

"I feel very relieved. I had been really down because I thought I would have to walk on somewhere. I knew I was good enough to be a scholarship player at a D-I school," Anders added.

Anders is ready for his position and said, "The coaches have told me I will play linebacker. I am 6-2, 220 pounds. I run a 4.4 in the forty. I think the main reason why coaches were not recruiting me was because I played defensive tackle at my high school. Coaches are not looking for 6-2, 200 pound three technique players."

"I have talked to Coach Joe Kines. He is very straight-up with me. He said he wasn't going to be my friend. He is going to be my coach, and I am his player. He said he would take it day-by-day with me to learn the linebacker position," Anders added.

Anders has learned what Alabama is about and said, "The only thing I really know about Alabama is they have a history of winning. I am really excited to get there."

He said he hoped to have playing time on special teams as a freshman.

What if the scholarship had not become available. Anders said, "I didn't really know where I would be going. I was hoping to go to a school in Texas, but after nothing worked out I knew I would have to leave the state. My coach went to a coaching clinic at Alabama. He took my tape to Coach Bob Connelly. Coach Connelly liked it a lot. I guess that's how I got my scholarship."

As a senior, Anders had 118 tackles, 41 tackles for loss, and 16 sacks. He was named first team all-state (5A) and his team won the area championship.

"I would say my strength is my reaction time," Anders said. "I am also very fast and quick. I have good hands. I know that playing defensive tackle and linebacker are two different things, but having good hands helps you at both positions."

—Andrew Bone

# Hot List

## What Does Alabama Want

Here is a list of high school senior prospects from Alabama and also from outside the state who have been linked with Alabama. It should be stressed that this is not Alabama's official recruiting list. This is based on recruiting reports done by the experts at **'BAMA** magazine and BamaMag.com, including Andrew Bone, Scott Kennedy, and Jamie Newberg. It includes two junior college prospects who have committed to Alabama. Players are listed by position with a guess by our experts as to how many players Bama would like to sign at each position. Information includes height, weight, 40-yard dash time, and hometown and high school. Those players already committed to Alabama are marked with an asterisk. Signing Day is February 8, 2006.

### QUARTERBACK (1-2)

Earl Alexander	6-4	203	4.55	Phenix City (Central)
Chip Bowden	6-0	200	4.7	Plant City, Fla. (Durant)
Anthony Davis	6-0	195	4.7	Montgomery (Carver)
Will Fidler	6-4	195	4.8	Henderson, Ky. (Henderson County)
Donnie Kirby	6-1	188	N/A	Chesapeake, Va. (Great Bridge)
Mathew Malouf QB	6-2	210	4.5	Oxford, Miss.
Greg McElroy	6-3	212	4.9	Southlake, Texas (Carroll)
Everett Mitchell	6-1	150	N/A	Corinth, Miss. (Biggersville)
D'Vontrey Richardson	6-1	205	4.65	Leesburg, Ga.
Chris Smelley	6-2	203	4.9	Tuscaloosa (American Christian)
Daniel Stegall	6-2	180	4.55	Greenwood, Ark.
Tim Tebow	6-3	225	4.6	St. Augustine, Fla. (Nease)
Garrett Utt	6-4	197	N/A	Atlanta, Ga. (Lovett)

### RUNNING BACK (2-3)

Chris Brown	5-10	195	4.5	Alexandria, La.
Anthony Dixon	6-1	228	4.6	Terry, Miss.
Randy Dupree	6-0	205	4.6	Attalla (Etowah)
Mike Ford	6-2	205	4.5	Sarasota, Fla. (Hargrave Military)
Terry Grant	5-10	187	4.5	Lumberton, Miss.
LeSean McCoy	5-10	195	N/A	Harrisburg, Pa. (Bishop McDevitt)
Charles Scott	6-0	220	4.55	Jonesboro, La. (Hodge)
Erroll Wynn	5-10	204	4.65	Jonesboro, Ga. (Mundy's Mill)

### WIDE RECEIVER (2-4)

Riley Cooper	6-4	205	N/A	Clearwater, Fla. (Central Catholic)
London Crawford	6-2	186	4.55	Mobile (Davidson)
Tim Hawthorne	6-2	192	4.65	Homewood
Anthony Jones	6-0	170	4.6	Tallahassee, Fla. (Rickards)
DeAndre McDaniel	6-1	185	4.5	Tallahassee, Fla. (Godby)
*Nikita Stover	6-1	190	4.45	Hartselle (Itawamba, Miss., JC)
Anthony Summers	6-3	200	4.55	Olive Branch, Miss.
Jared White	6-1	175	N/A	Mobile (Williamson)
Terrell Zachery	6-1	189	4.54	Wadley

### TIGHT END (1-3)

*Preston Dial	6-4	242	4.75	Mobile (UMS Wright)
Richard Dickson	6-4	238	4.77	Ocean Springs, Miss.
Michael Goggans	6-3	246	4.63	Alexander City (Benjamin Russell)

### OFFENSIVE LINE (4-6)

Rob Drum	6-7	265	5.35	Birmingham (Spain Park)
Maurice Hurt	6-4	344	5.7	Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin)
*Bryan Motley	6-2	274	5.3	Autaugaaville
*Taylor Pharr	6-6	265	N/A	Birmingham (Shades Valley)
Jermarcus Ricks	6-4	285	5.3	Leighton (Colbert County)
Daron Rose	6-5	310	5.4	Tampa, Fla. (Jefferson)
David Ross	6-4	285	5.3	Homewood
André Smith	6-4	315	5.2	Birmingham (Huffman)
Alex Stadler	6-6	300	N/A	Beaumont, Va. (Liberty)
Kiante Tripp	6-5	250	5.0	Atlanta, Ga. (Westlake)
Daniel Wenger	6-4	285	5.3	Ft Lauderdale, Fla. (St Thos Aquinas)
Tria White	6-5	280	N/A	Haines City, Fla.
Troy White	6-5	285	N/A	Haines City, Fla.

### DEFENSIVE LINE (4-6)

John Bell	6-2	245	N/A	Shreveport, La. (Evangel Christian)
Jacobi Graves	6-6	260	N/A	Attalla (Etowah)
Cory Hobbs	6-5	310	5.2	Oviedo, Fla.
*Jeramie Holifield	6-5	250	4.5	Hoover (NW Mississippi JC)
Craig Marshall	6-5	217	4.7	Ft Walton Bch, Fla. (Choctawhatchee)
McKenzie Mathews	6-2	240	4.8	Syracuse, N.Y. (Christian Brothers)
Josh Minton	6-4	260	N/A	Somerset, Ky. (SW Pulaski County)
Steven Wesley	6-3	235	N/A	Bartow, Fla.

### LINEBACKER (4-6)

J.D. Douglas	6-3	200	4.6	Prattville
Aaron Finch	6-0	234	N/A	Springdale, Ark.
*Charlie Higgenbotham	6-0	210	4.65	Mountain Brook
A.J. Jones	6-2	190	4.5	Tampa, Fla. (Middleton)
*Charlie Kirschman	6-3	225	N/A	St. Augustine, Fla. (Nease)

Antonio Lowery	6-2	210	4.7	Miami, Fla. (Columbus)
Derrick Odum	6-2	205	4.5	Jackson, Miss. (Callaway)
Tim Rawlinson	6-1	215	4.65	Prattville
Morrice Richardson	6-2	215	4.75	Atlanta, Ga. (Westlake)
Martez Smith	6-0	204	4.5	Camden, Miss. (Velma Jackson)

### DEFENSIVE BACK (2-4)

C.J. Bailey	5-10	180	4.6	Moss Point, Miss.
Justin Bullard	6-1	170	4.63	Millbrook (Stanhope-Elmore)
*Tremayne Coger	5-10	176	4.47	Columbia, Tenn. (Central)
*Andy Davis	6-0	200	4.45	Birmingham (Briarwood Christian)
Jai Eugene	6-1	185	N/A	Astrehan, La.
Jordan Pugh	5-11	183	4.45	Plano, Texas (West)
Marcus Udell	5-11	180	4.5	Tallahassee, Fla. (Godby)
Justin Woodall	6-1	200	4.75	Oxford, Miss. (Lafayette)

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*By Kirk McNair*





# Things Have Turned Out Well

*After year away from football  
John Parker Wilson ready to step in*

**M**any fans watching college football games become frustrated with the inefficiency of the offense and want to see the number two quarterback take over. Alabama first team quarterback Brodie Croyle has noted that the most popular man in the state is the back-up quarterback for the Crimson Tide. But one man who doesn't fall into the category of campaigning to bring on the back-up is the man who came into this season as the Bama back-up.

"I'm for the guy who is in there," John Parker Wilson said. "I'm always on the quarterback's side. I know how tough it is and what he's going through."

Indeed, the game looks much different from the quarterback's position than it does from Section Z or from La-Z-Boy.

This is a big season for Wilson because he was out of football last year, the only year in nearly a decade.

Wilson and offensive lineman Drew Davis were "grayshirts" last season. Wilson said, "At the time I signed we had good quarterback depth and Coach Shula thought it would be the best situation for me. Even though there turned out to be some depth problems last year, it still worked out well for

me. I had always played football and baseball in high school, and so I had never done much in the weight room. That year off let me hit the weights."

The 6-2 Wilson reported for fall camp at 215 after having played at between 175 and 180 pounds as a high school senior in 2003.

In addition to getting 10 hours of academic work (the limit to be less than a full-time student, thus retaining the year of eligibility), Wilson had a workout partner in Davis. As part-time students, Wilson and Davis could not participate in team activities or with coaches in football related matters. But they were permitted to work out together, which they did. They could also go to the film room to watch tape. And each day they were able to observe practice.

"The coaches couldn't help me or teach me and I couldn't go to the team or quarterback meetings," Wilson said. "I had to do it on my own and figure things out from the tapes. I think it helped me a lot."

Last December, when Alabama began preparation for the Music City Bowl following the completion of the fall semester, Wilson and Davis were permitted to join the team for workouts. "It was great, because I hadn't

played football in a year," Wilson said. "I got a lot of reps and it really helped me. When we got into spring practice it was very beneficial because I knew the practice routine, knew the script, knew how things were run."

A misinterpretation of NCAA rules resulted in Alabama not taking Wilson and Davis to the bowl game. It was later determined they could have participated in the pre-bowl practice in Nashville, but Bama is understandably cautious in such matters. "That was disappointing," Wilson said. "As it turned out, there was a big cheerleader competition in Nashville that same week and my little sister (Marlo, who is in the eighth grade) was there for that. And the cheerleaders were at the same hotel as the teams (Alabama and Minnesota), so I was right there with them."

John Parker also has two brothers, five-year-old Peyton and Ross, a 5-11, 185-pound junior and the quarterback at Hoover this year as Hoover goes for a fourth consecutive 6A state championship. John Parker quarterbacked Hoover to the titles in 2002 and 2003.

Wilson wasn't particularly difficult to recruit to Bama. He grew up an Alabama fan, the son of Tuscaloosa natives Parker

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Coming in early gave Wilson an advantage

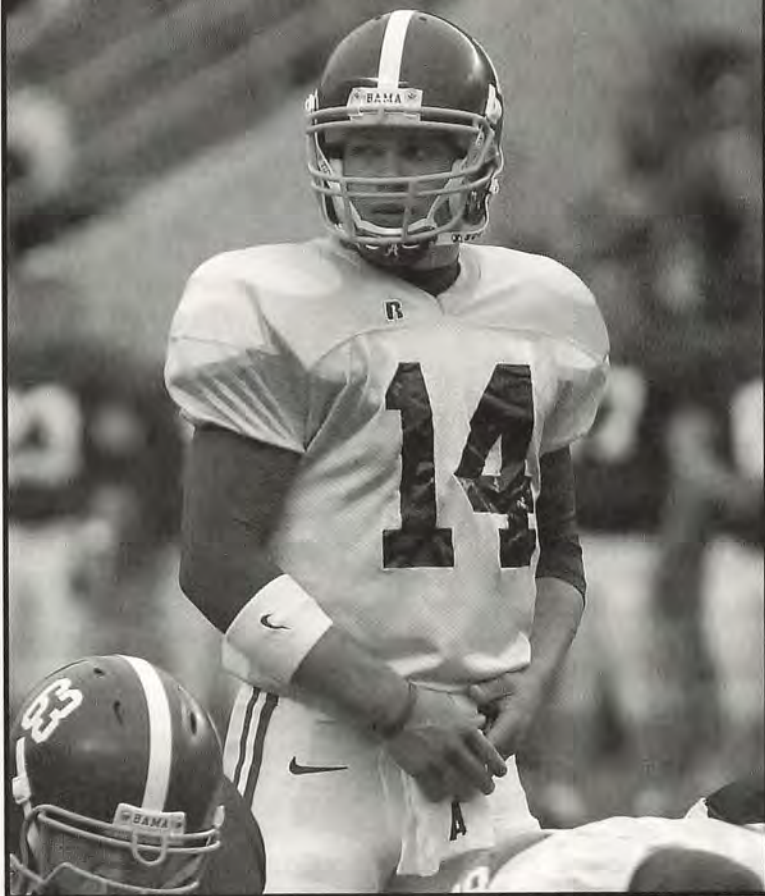


Photo: Barry Fikes

Wilson, an outstanding baseball player at West Alabama, and Susan Ingram, who was a cheerleader for the Crimson Tide. "I've got a lot of family in Tuscaloosa and I grew up an Alabama fan, going to games since I was a little kid," Wilson said.

Alabama Head Coach Mike Shula saw the benefit of Wilson delaying his entry into Alabama in order to take advantage of spring practice before his true freshman season. "He is much further along because of that," Shula said. "And he reported back to pre-season camp picking up where he had left off in the spring."

Where he was in the spring was pretty good. Croyle was held out of most work, including the A-Day Game. Wilson was selected by media covering the spring game as winner of the Dixie Howell Award as the most valuable player in the game. He completed 14 of 31 passes for 168 yards and one touchdown. His spring practice scrimmage statistics, including the Crimson-White Game, were 41 of 78 (52.6 per cent) for five touchdowns with only one interception.

Wilson said his role going into this season, when he is officially a true freshman, is "to come in and learn as much as I can and prepare for whatever happens, whether it is this year or next year. I need to learn as much as I can."

He said, "I've got to go out there and work as hard as I can. It's not so much about competition with the other quarterbacks. I just want to be as good as I can be. The rest will take care of itself."

Wilson has been learning football since he got to Alabama. In the summer, he said, "I spent a lot of time with Brodie. It really helped me to watch film with him. It was mostly me asking questions and him answering them. Watching tapes is a mental transition, taking the information from the page and being able to put it into perspective of what is happening on the field."

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As an example, he said, a quarterback "reads" his receivers, as many as four or five on a play. But if the quarterback sees a defensive alignment that eliminates one or more of those receivers in the called play, it changes the quarterback's read.

Wilson has impressed Croyle. "John Parker is going to be a great Alabama quarterback," Croyle said just before the start of practice.

Like almost every quarterback at any level, Wilson said a primary task for him is to continue to learn to read defenses, a process that is accelerated with game experience.

Wilson started playing organized football when he was about 10 years old and has always been a quarterback. "No defense or anything like that," he said.

At Hoover he operated an offense that featured four wide receivers, but which also had an effective running game. As a senior he completed 314 of 467 passes for a state record 3,821 yards and 40 touchdowns. He suffered only 10 interceptions. (By comparison, Alabama TEAM records are 230 completions in 1989, 386 attempts in 2003, and 18 touchdowns in 1950.) For his high school career, Wilson completed 615 of 978 passes for 8,170 yards and 78 touchdowns. He was the 6A Player of the Year.

Wilson is not unusual in the world of

quarterbacks in preferring to not have to run the ball, but said, "I think I can handle that okay if I have to."

Alabama Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach Dave Rader said, "Spring practice was invaluable to him. It improved his confidence being able to take so many snaps. It was unfortunate that Brodie wasn't able to take part in all spring work (Croyle was held out of team work as he recovered from 2004 knee surgery), but it was good for John Parker and for Marc (junior quarterback Marc Guillon)."

Rader said, "It helped us to know him and his abilities. The team-coaches and players—has more confidence in his ability. I feel good about him being able to go into a game and perform, and I think the entire team feels that way."

The coach said, "We knew he had a strong arm. We're going to continue to work on his release."

Throughout the spring and continuing through pass skeleton work in the summer—players working on their own—it was noted that Wilson's most obvious flaw is that he sometimes hesitated too long before making his pass. Head Coach Mike Shula tempered his considerable praise for Wilson with that note. Being slow on the trigger is one thing in practice when quarterbacks are not hit by

defenders, but it's quite a different matter in games. In the summer Alabama defenders would begin to count as Wilson dropped back in the passing drills. "One...two...three... SACK!" if he held the ball too long.

Wilson said, "It's a lot different at this level. It's hard to believe how fast the secondary guys are and especially how fast the defensive linemen move. You have to make up your mind and get rid of it or you're going to get sacked. Everyone on the field is so athletic."

He said, "I think I'm getting better about the speed of the game. Just before pre-season camp started I got some cut-ups (video tape segments) of (Indianapolis Colts quarterback) Peyton Manning in a pre-season game. It is amazing how fast he gets rid of the ball."

Wilson said that summer work was very beneficial. "Everyone worked real hard," he said. "Our receivers really worked hard on their routes. When everyone works so hard it makes a big difference for the good."

Rader said, "He has a lot of ability and I'm glad he's out here. At the end of the season you would like to be able to say that we didn't need to give John Parker all those snaps in the spring, that Brodie was able to make it through the season. But you can't always count on that." ■



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By Greg Wallace

# He Could Be Tight End Shula Has Been Seeking

*Nick Walker can catch and coming along as blocker*

**A**t Pike County High School in Brundidge, Nick Walker did a little bit of everything. He was an all-state receiver, accounting for more than 1,000 yards receiving as a senior for the Class 3A state champions. He was a tight end, when the need arose. He even punted and kicked field goals and extra points.

But he was woefully unprepared for what awaited him in college football when he arrived at Alabama last fall.

His practice mates were bigger. Much bigger.

Suddenly, the 130-pound players he'd blocked throughout his high school career became 260-pounders. And a true freshman season quickly became an automatic red-shirt year.

"I really had to work on getting stronger and hitting bigger guys," Walker said recently. "In high school, I hit a bunch of guys who were 130 pounds, max. I came in here and everybody was 260, 270, so I had to get a lot stronger, get a lot more physical."

A year later, Walker looks far more ready for college football's rigors. He reported to preseason camp in August at a bulky 6-foot-4, 245 pounds and took a stranglehold on Alabama's starting tight end role.

"I learned all the plays, what to do, figured out the schemes and why they were trying to do it," Walker said of his redshirt season. "I was sitting back and watching, learning,

watching film and I got my confidence. So I'm playing with confidence right now."

In many ways, a redshirt season was the perfect move for Walker. Tight end is perhaps the youngest, most wide-open position on Alabama's roster, thanks to graduation and injuries. Starter David Cavan finished an injury-plagued career in 2004, and Clint Johnston—who would have been a senior this fall—was forced to give up football following a series of concussions.

(Walker was number 89 in practice last year and through spring practice, but will be in the 88 number Johnston had last year.)

And just before camp began, sophomore Trent Davidson—who had the inside track on starting—was sidelined by foot surgery, expected to keep him out through mid-September at least.

That left Walker and two true freshmen—Charles Hoke and Travis McCall—as the top tight end options alongside oft-injured senior Greg McLain.

Of the quartet, Walker's well-rounded skill set made him the best option. Tide Coach Mike Shula has coveted a pass-catching tight end in his offense since he returned to Alabama three years ago, and Walker fits the bill perfectly.

As a high school senior, Walker had 67 receptions for 1,028 yards and 15 touchdowns. As a junior he had pulled in 37 passes for over 800 yards and 10 TDs. He was an

all-state honoree both seasons.

He was one of Bama's most talked-about players following the A-Day Game to conclude spring practice. He had three receptions for 59 yards and a touchdown.

Following that practice, Shula described Walker as "a big target, a guy who can run and has good hands."

Dave Ungerer, who coaches Bama's tight ends, said, "The big differences in Nick Walker this year and Nick Walker a year ago are in size and in confidence. He is 20 pounds bigger than when he reported last year. And that year of going through practices and off-season work and spring practice has had him gaining confidence day-by-day."

Ungerer noted that Walker "was really a wide receiver in high school, so he had to get an understanding of the game as a tight end with his hand on the ground. He's gotten a lot of reps at tight end in the past year."

The coach said, "Nick is always going to look good in the passing game. He's got soft hands. He was an excellent high school basketball player and is very athletic. That part comes easy."

"Having to get down and block a big defensive end is where he has had to work. And he's doing much better. He's made a lot of improvement in that aspect of his game. He gets good work against our defensive ends. We have spent extra time with him on the fundamentals of blocking."

Nick Walker has improved as a blocker

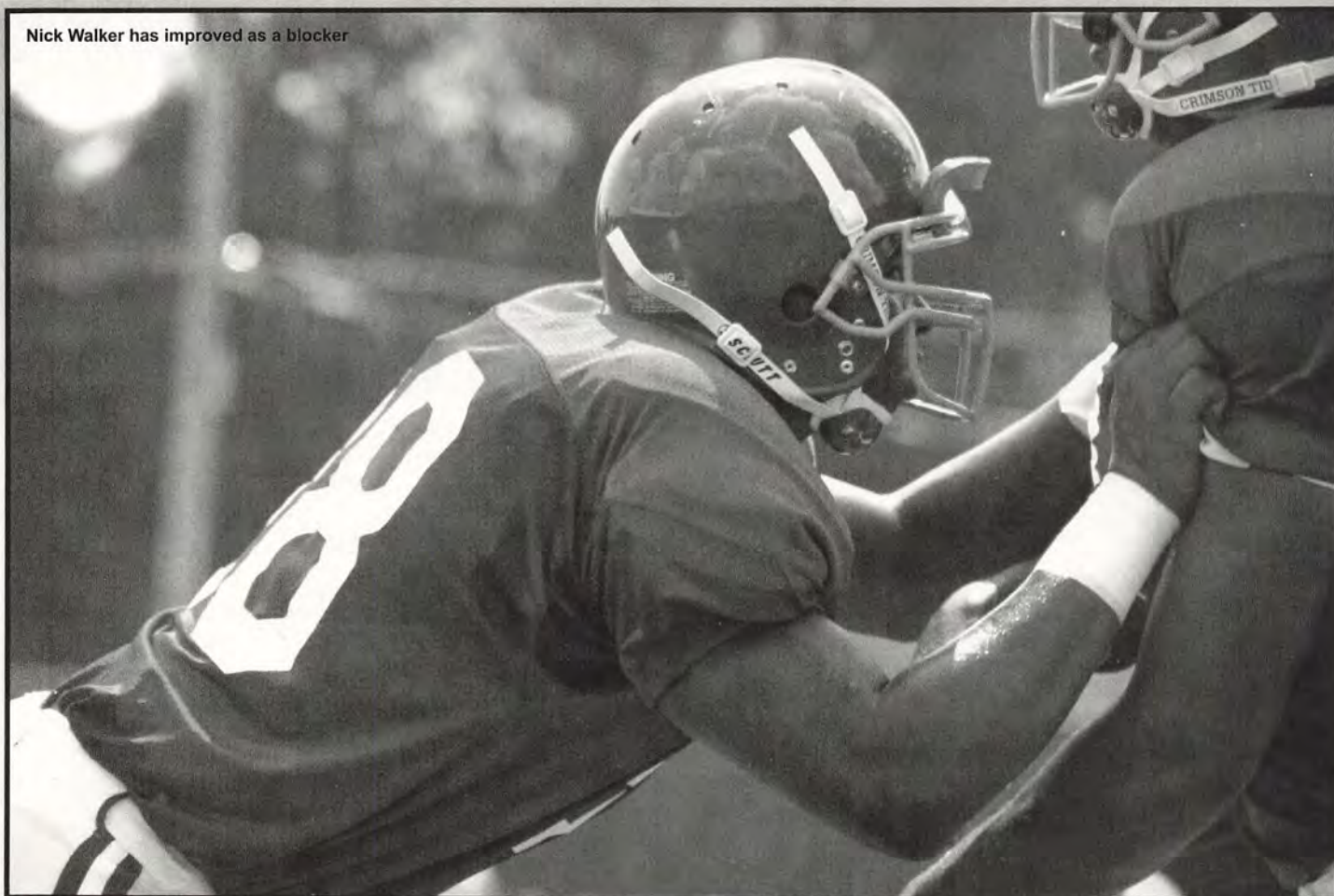


Photo: University of Alabama

Although the plan has been on hold because of a lack of tight end numbers, Shula would like not only to utilize the tight end more in the offense, but also to use more than one with greater frequency. It is also possible that a lack of depth at fullback (if Tim Castille is limited) could put more emphasis on the use of multiple tight ends.

As a measure of how important the tight end is in the Shula offense, watch the recruiting efforts each year and there will be tight end prospects high on Bama's wish list. This year the Tide already has a commitment from at least one tight end, Preston Dial of UMS Wright in Mobile.

"I've said from day one, we want a guy who can (block and catch), because we feel like that's a very important position for us," Shula said. "We felt like in the past we've potentially had some guys (who could do that), but we had a lot of injuries, and we haven't had that consistency. I think Nick has the ability to do both."

So does Walker.

"I feel like I can catch a couple of balls," he said. "(Alabama) had blocking tight ends, and I'm working hard on getting that down, too. But I want to be considered more than just a pass-catching tight end. I want to be a blocker, too. I can contribute."

Learning how to do that involved a red-shirt season in 2004.

Walker already had solid pass-catching skills, as his high school statistics showed. But beyond a few "if-necessary" stints at Pike County, he was a work-in-progress at tight end.

Was the adjustment tough? You bet.

"It's going to be difficult for any player to come in a totally different situation than you played in high school," he said. "But you've got to adjust. You've got to play where you can contribute, or have the best opportunity to contribute."

His year of learning finally took hold in spring practice. Walker looked far more comfortable, pushing himself to the top of the tight end mix.

"We watched tape from spring practice," said Shula, "and even though he got hurt and missed a couple of practices, he was one of our most improved players."

And it carried into the summer, too.

Senior quarterback Brodie Croyle worked during blazing-hot pass skels with Walker and others, and the more he saw, the more he liked.

By summer's end, it was obvious Walker was light-years ahead of the tentative player Croyle had left behind a year earlier.

"I don't think he was as far along (last fall) as the tight ends we got in this year, but he worked extremely hard in the off-season and had a very good spring," Croyle said. "He's looked really good all summer in the pass skels. It's carried over to the field."

Yes, Nick Walker has come a long way in one year.

He also knows he has a long way to go.

"It feels good," Walker said, "but I've got to work hard to keep the position." ■

home. So she was like 'You need to get away from the house. That's what I really want you to do.'

"I remember that because it hurt me. I thought she was pushing me away, but she was really telling me I needed to get away from the house because it would help me a lot, more than staying here."

Fortunately, Dukes is blessed with a gift of having his mind wide open to sound advice, whether it comes from his coaches, teammates, mother, father, brother or even from Paul Bryant.

Dukes said many people faithful to the Rebels were upset with him leaving. He fielded calls from people asking him why he was going to Alabama. Why not Ole Miss?

"It's not all about Ole Miss when you're down there because you want to see other things," he said. "You want to be a part of something else. I just didn't want to be a part of Ole Miss at the time."

When he came to Tuscaloosa to finalize his decision in the summer of 2004 he was reassured by what he found, specifically by what he found in the player's lounge on the second floor of the football complex.

"I saw they had everything I needed, especially the game room," Dukes said with a laugh. "Then I saw the weight room and I knew if I came up here they'd have a great weight program. TJ (Assistant Strength Coach Terry Jones) told me if I come up here he will push me, like he's going to be like my second dad."

Dukes played a tad over 10 plays per game in 2004, contributing mostly on special teams. But he finished the season with an expanded role in the Music City Bowl, and continued his progression over the spring and summer.

"He really started to play well toward the end of the year," Tide Head Coach Mike Shula said. "I would say from the last three or four games, then through spring ball, he made more strides there than he had since he's been here. We didn't play that many guys in the secondary last year. He and Simeon (Castille) are the only guys that played much."

Dukes made seven tackles last year, forced two fumbles, and had two quarterback hurries. His first and second years at Alabama have closely mirrored the first two years of playing

football. Dukes is a rising star.

"Right around the bowl season, when we came back (after the Auburn game) I was working out with Anthony Madison and he helped me out on my footwork," Dukes said. "Ramzee Robinson told me I needed to speak up for the second-team defense, too, because I'm the leader for the second-team defense. I'm making all the play calls, so they have to listen to me, too. Not anybody else."

Entering the 2005 season he was among a handful of players (Nick Walker, Zeke Knight, John Parker Wilson were the others) expecting breakout years for the Crimson Tide after solidifying his role in spring practice.

"He's the guy that, all summer, when you visit with the players and ask 'Who's doing good?' they always mention him," Bama Defensive Coordinator Joe Kines said.

There is still the reality that he is playing behind two of the best safeties in the Southeastern Conference, however, in Roman Harper and Charlie Peprah. Dukes has plenty of patience with his role as the third safety and nickelback because he knows what lies ahead.

"Coach Ball told me that I need to be there, because after Roman and Pep leave there's nobody except for me and Marcus (Carter). I figured that if it was going to be anybody it was going to be me. I am trying to be a leader on and off the field helping the freshmen that just came in, being there for them when they need me besides on the field, too. When he told me that I knew I really needed to step up."

Before the season began Dukes had slight but nasty setback from all that fast food he likes so well. After hovering around 190 pounds when he first came in, Dukes decided to up his caloric intake on the advice of Strength and Conditioning Coach Kent Johnston.

"He stresses getting a lot of protein in you," Dukes said. "It's all got to do with all the calories you eat."

Maybe Johnston wasn't specific enough about the best way to go about increasing the calories. Dukes went about super sizing himself at the golden arches.

"I always ate McDonald's," Dukes said. "I ate like four or five double cheeseburgers, or go to Wendy's and get like five of their junior bacon cheeseburgers or something."

"At first I would eat like two double cheeseburgers and he told me I needed to gain weight so I just started eating more. Them double cheeseburgers—I ate like four of them and I knew one of them was going to end up being bad because the cheese wasn't melted. I got a stomach virus. I was on an IV and everything. I lost a lot of weight then."

Dukes said he steers more towards 15th-street Diner's meat-and-three menu nowadays.

"I started taking protein shakes and that set me right, too," But what about McDonald's? "Not that much," he said. "I eat their breakfast, still."

Being a late signee, Dukes is also a part of what might be becoming a Mike Shula tradition—the summer surprise.

In 2003 Shula picked up Wallace Gilberry in the summer months. After a redshirt year, Gilberry became the Tide's sack leader in 2004 and starter at defensive end this season. Shula picked up another promising player, Eryk Anders, in late July of this year. Kines has seen plenty of the type in his long career.

"Some times a guy like that, the 'want to' is what pushes him on over the top," Kines said. "Any time you've got a cause then you fight a little harder and I think both those kids came in with a cause. Maybe they want to say 'I'm going to show you that I should have been here in the first place.' It doesn't matter what the cause to me, just get you one and go with it."

Dukes is still taking good advice wherever he can find it. It's a large part of what has made him one of the Crimson Tide's most-liked and fast-rising players.

"Me and Meco (linebacker DeMeco Ryans), we've gotten close because I can talk to him about anything," Dukes said. "He can also talk to me about anything. He will tell me what to do, what I'm doing wrong. Unlike some guys, I will sit there and listen because I know he's been here longer than me. I know what he tells me can only make me better."

Players like Dukes might be referred to by some folks as the in-between players—ones not super-talented but not un-athletic, either.

Knowing about Bryant as he does, Dukes would take pride in being called one of the ones that thought they were good. The ones that accepted coaching. The ones Bryant talked about so much on all those tapes. ■

# Bama Is Having Building Boom

*Coleman Coliseum in November,  
Bryant-Denny next fall conclude works*

Coleman Coliseum will be completed  
in November, Coleman Coliseum  
renovation costing \$28 million

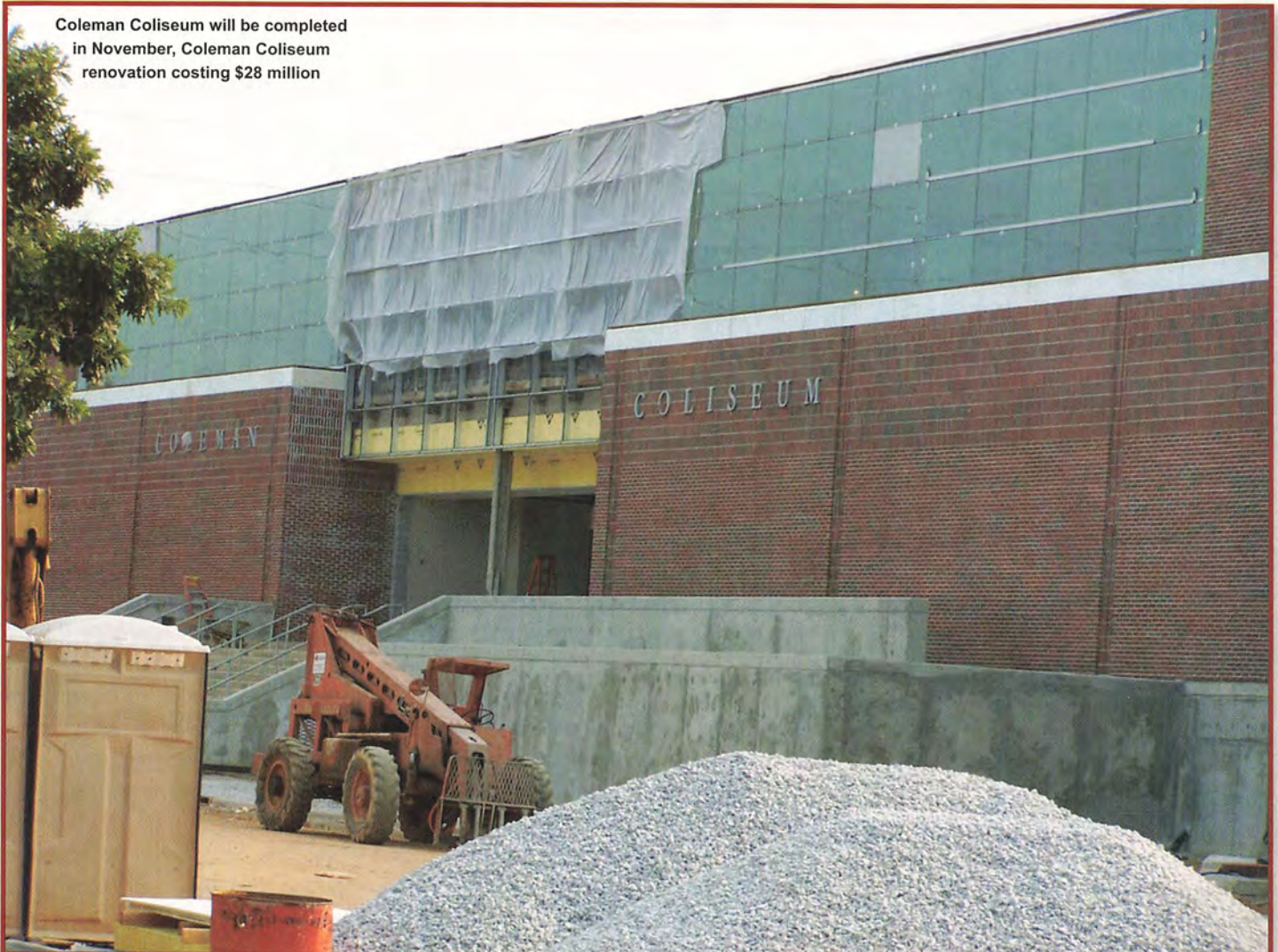


Photo: Mitch Dobbs

**D**irector of Capital Projects Thad Turnipseed has a healthy attitude about his job. "The way I look at it, there are 24 hours in a day," Turnipseed said during an Alabama Sports Writers Association tour of The University of Alabama's athletics facilities in June.

The question now is whether 24 hours in a day will be enough as workers scurry to complete renovations to Coleman Coliseum before the first scheduled Crimson Tide men's basketball game there on November 15.

Construction managers from Birmingham-based Brasfield & Gorrie provide detailed updates on their progress daily to Turnipseed and Athletics Director Mal Moore. They watch the progress with bated breath, more so every day.

On the doorway where a temporary office is set up inside Coleman Coliseum, a sheet of plain white paper displays a countdown of the days remaining for the project's deadline: 52 days, 51 days, 50 days...

Hand-written in marker on a door to be discarded later was the message "Get to Work!" And as many as 300 workers have been at it in a single day.

The building that was erected in 1968 is undergoing its first ever major facelift. The \$28 million project (Coleman Coliseum's original construction cost when completed in 1968 was a bargain \$4.2 million) will provide new Tide Pride offices, ticket offices, coaches' offices, player lockerrooms, video theatres, and a recruiting lounge. That, of course, is mostly behind the scenes.

There will also be a new lighting system in place to appease television and still-frame cameras.

For fans attending basketball games, gymnastics meets and other events in the coliseum there will be new concessions of great variety, restrooms, arena seating, an open lobby and a widened concourse (32 feet wider on both the east and west sides, much deeper in the front north lobby) especially appreciated for anyone who has ever attended a football fan day event in the coliseum normally held the day of the A-Day game.

The club level with massive tinted windows overlooking the new east entrance and facing the UA law school has already rounded into form.

The arena floor looks like a deserted valley among rows of concrete where old and older seats of different shades of red once sat. The floor is to be covered with a coating that will make it easier to clean and make spilled drinks non-sticky.

The new seats will be among the very last things installed. And continuing the fight against spilled drinks, each seat will include a cup holder.

The most notable change to the coliseum from the outside of the building are the matching cylinder-shaped brick offices that have been

placed on either side of the main entrance. At the top floor, these areas will host men's coach Mark Gottfried and his staff on one side, with Stephany Smith and her women's basketball staff on the other side.

Before that, however, fans will get a feel as they make their way towards the coliseum. Oft overlooked but a crucial part of the facelift is the bricking of the driveway, removal of shoddy light

posts that plagued the middle of the driveway and replacement with attractive smaller black light posts on the outside of the drive.

Brick is also in the process of being laid at the walkway from the Bryant Museum to the coliseum across Paul W. Bryant Drive. The elevator shaft of the baseball stadium will be bricked and marked with the athletics department's signature script "A."

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Elvis, Elton John, Led Zeppelin, Liza Minelli, Bob Dylan, Bob Hope, and countless other legendary acts have played Coleman Coliseum. It has included historic moments for Bama basketball and gymnastics. When the coliseum is re-dedicated in December (before a basketball game against Notre Dame) after the building's first ever major facelift it should be hardly recognizable.

## Bryant-Denny Stadium

The north end zone expansion appeared to sprout virtually overnight, shooting up to three floors of steel and wood in a matter of weeks. And, indeed, some of it was overnight. In order to avoid heat and traffic, concrete trucks rolled throughout the night on some occasions.

The stadium expansion, with a price tag of \$45 million, it will be the sixth upgrade of the stadium since its opening in 1929. It is on schedule to be completed before Alabama opens the 2006 season hosting Hawaii on

September 2.

The ground outside of the north end zone, where the expansion is taking place, was etched out several feet to make the outside ground even with the playing field.

Alabama's locker room will be at the north end zone when the renovations are complete and the visitors will move into where Alabama currently dresses—making the visitor's locker room among the most spacious in the nation.

The north endzone also will house a new administrative level, media suite and ticket window, a club lounge and 36 new skyboxes of varying sizes.

The total stadium capacity after the renovations will be some 92,000. There will be 120 total skyboxes, 1,680 club level seats and an upper deck that will hold 6,800 at completion for the open of the 2006 season.

Fans will be inconvenienced at Alabama home games this year because of lost parking spots and re-routed entry into some gates. There will also be a loss of approximately 2,800 seats

inside the stadium at the north end zone. The walk ramps are staying put, and most of the usual gates will be accessible during the season.

Like the existing west-side upper deck, the seats are planned to have chair backs and arm rests, but plans for a canopy hanging overhead have been dropped. Although the budget figured into the change, there had been an architectural debate about the value and attractiveness of a canopy in the beginning. It was a minimal loss at most.

The club level seating will be outside, but members will be able to go inside to a 20,000 square foot stocked club lounge. The club lounge will double as a banquet hall area that would seat close to 900 people on the floor in a banquet configuration during the off-season.

The Crimson Tradition Campaign has already accounted for the expansion and remodeling of the football building; the new track entrance; new soccer and tennis stadiums; new golf center; and renovation of Bryant Hall into an academic center for all athletes. ■



Bryant-Denny Stadium will have some 92,000 seats next season

Photo: Mitch Dobbs

By Jeff Dunnivant

# Cross Country Outlook

*Hopes are high for competitive teams in 2005*

**I**ndoor track and field is a winter sport and outdoor track and field is a spring sport. In the fall a handful of distance runners from the track and field squad make up cross country teams. And although cross country is a part of the overall track and field program, the head coaches of the cross country team are the distance coaches of the track team.

In the winter and fall, the cross country runners will be the distance runners on the track and field squads.

But in the fall, the runners will be outdoors on courses measuring miles, running primarily on grass and ground—not synthetic track surfaces—and usually far from view of spectators.

Both the Alabama men and Crimson Tide women's squads are expected to be improved this year.

Alabama Men's Coach Joe Walker considered the Crimson Tide to have had back-to-back down seasons, but expects Bama to rebound in 2005 and return to the form that saw the Bama harriers win consecutive NCAA Region championships in 2000 and 2001.

To do that, the Tide is depending on a group of athletes from Kenya to set the pace. All-America Peter Etoot, who finished 44th at the 2004 NCAA South Regional, will be the Tide's lone senior. He qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 800-meter run in the spring, finishing eighth in the country. But while Etoot's specialty comes at the shorter mid-distance level, Alex Korir and Augustus Maiyo are long distance specialists.

Both Korir and Maiyo qualified for the NCAA Track and Field Championships this spring in the 10k and 5k respectively. Korir was Alabama's highest placing runner at last year's NCAA Regional, finishing 11th, just one spot out of an automatic NCAA Championship berth. Walker is hoping the speed and endurance built up on the track will translate into success on the cross country course this fall.

"We're expecting Alex Korir to be one of our leaders this season," Walker said. "Augustus Maiyo is another guy that I feel should challenge at the conference and national level."

Sophomore miler and middle distance specialist Titus Koeh joined the team this fall

and is expected to round out the Tide's top four. Walker feels Koeh has matured after experiencing the 2005 track season at Alabama.

Maiyo and Koeh were each added to the Alabama track team last January, after the cross country season was completed. Now, nine months later, Walker believes they have adjusted to life in the United States and are prepared to make major strides this fall.

"There was an adjustment period for these guys that we've brought in from Kenya," Walker said. "They came in to our winter while it was still summer where they're from and that's something that takes time to get used to."

With a solid top four in place, Walker is left wondering who will step up to fill the final three positions on his team. He said, "We've always been solid with our top four, but we continue to struggle with our depth."

Walker was hopeful that two late additions this semester would bolster the squad. Head Track Coach Harvey Glance has allotted another full scholarship to distance runners (track and field scholarships are generally divided so a team can have enough performers to fill all events).

"Coach Glance has been great about allowing us to build a strong distance program," Walker said. "We're still one or two guys short of where we would like to be, but we do have an opportunity to add some guys who will make us a very good team."

Steve Keith's rebuilding of the Alabama women's distance program hasn't always been smooth. In each of Keith's first four seasons at the helm of the women's cross country program, the Crimson Tide has failed to finish higher than ninth place at the Southeastern Conference Championships. But now in 2005, with a solid core of juniors in tact, Keith can finally see light at the end of the tunnel.

"Everyone is back," Keith said.

With the exception of last season's lone senior, Virnetta Green, Alabama returns seven runners. Only Blair Davis will be a senior this year, which has Keith excited about the direction of this program.

"Our depth is better than any year I've been here," Keith said, "and so will be the quality of runners."

In addition to Davis, Keith will rely on

juniors Megan Carnes, Julia Hicks, Elizabeth Wancowicz and sophomore Tara Enebak to comprise the team's top five positions. After what he considered to be a very successful track season last spring, combined with the familiarity of a group that has been in the program for two-plus seasons and fully understands the scope of what he's trying to accomplish, Keith is confident in the ability of these five ladies to return the Tide to the upper echelon of the SEC.

Since last fall, Keith has already seen marked improvement. Carnes established a new school record in the 3000m steeplechase, besting the old record by 21 seconds at the SEC Championships. Hicks placed fifth in the 1500m at the SEC Championships and Enebak rebounded from injury to set new personal records in nearly each of her events, as did Wancowicz. Improvement on the track usually leads to improvement on the cross country course, so clearly there's reason for Keith to be anxious to see what this team can accomplish.

However, it's not necessarily this season that Keith is pointing towards. Without losing sight on the upcoming season, he knows that the core of this year's team will return in 2006, and with another year of training under their belts, that could be a special season.

"I quietly have some goals for a year from now when this group of juniors has had the opportunity to mature a little more and moves into their senior year," Keith said. "But to preface all of that I would say that they had a really nice track season. So then they start looking around and see who they're running with and where those girls placed in cross country and now they have some confidence that they can run at the front. I know they won't be happy with finishing anywhere outside of the top half of the conference this year."

Six newcomers have also been added to the roster, two of which Keith expects to move directly into the team's top six. Freshman Katie Davis of Lilburn, Georgia, finished third and fourth respectively in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter at the Georgia 5A state championships and Molly McNutt of Vestavia Hills ran impressive times in the same distances. ■

# Where Are They Now?

*Siran Stacy has been successful off the field, too*

**S**iran Stacy had a four-touchdown game against Tennessee, a game-winning 12-yard TD run against Penn State, and a 211-yard rushing outburst against LSU. But earlier this summer when former Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings told the former Tide running back he was proud of Stacy, it had nothing to do with the ex-tailback's 1989 feats.

It was all about what Stacy, now 36, has done with his life since his playing career at The Capstone ended in 1991. The two men had a chance to catch up on each other's lives during Stallings' charity golf tournament in Tuscaloosa.

"That meant a lot to me," Stacy said of Stallings' affirmation. "It means a lot when someone like Coach Stallings says he's proud of you. It almost brought tears to my eyes."

Stallings' pride in Stacy probably has more to do with how the former Tide standout has responded to adversity over the years than anything else. Truth is, Stacy's life after college didn't play out as he, or likely Stallings, for that matter, expected. The 46th overall pick by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1992, Stacy saw action on special teams as a rookie but was given few opportunities to run the ball with Herschel Walker listed ahead of him on the depth chart.

The Eagles released Stacy the following year.

"To be honest, I felt I never got a fair shot to show what I could do at Philadelphia," Stacy said. "How well you do in the NFL has a lot to do with simply whether or not the organization likes you or not. If they don't like you, it doesn't matter how good you are, you're not going to get a chance."

In addition to his frustrations in the NFL, Stacy also found himself battling personal trials in his life around that same time frame—personal trials the media not only made public but reported in such a way that vilified Stacy. Homer Smith, Alabama's offensive coordinator in 1989, could do nothing but shake his head.

"I would read articles and just think to myself, 'If these people only knew what type of character this young man has, they wouldn't be running him down like this,'" Smith said.

Stacy took a year to reassess his life in 1993 and then decided to re-enroll at Alabama in 1994 to continue work toward his degree. He returned to professional football in 1995, joining the Scottish Claymores of the World League, now known as NFL Europe. Finally given the opportunity to showcase his skills as a running back, Stacy didn't disappoint. He helped lead the Claymores to the World

League championship in 1996. He retired from professional football in 2000 having set World League records for career rushing yards (2,350), rushing attempts (621), touchdowns (18) and all-purpose yards (3,237).

"It was an awesome experience," Stacy, now a member of the Claymores Hall of Fame, said of his time in Europe. "It was kind of like the NFL's version of Triple A baseball, but it was still football."

Once back in America, Stacy found temporary work through a friend in Birmingham and soon discovered a new career interest when he began taking real estate courses. That led to his employment at Hometown Lenders, based in Huntsville. He was there about a year before joining Countrywide Home Loans about six months ago. Stacy's office in Sandestin, Florida, is about an hour-and-a-half drive from his residence in Newton, Alabama, a small town near Dothan.

"I try to compare my job to football or more specifically a Homer Smith playbook," Stacy said. "In Homer Smith's offense, you had to know exactly what you were doing, and if you knew it soundly, it could be a beautiful thing. The same is true here. You've got to know your stuff so you can really help people and do what's best for them."

Because of the work load and the drive time home, Stacy sometimes spends the week in Sandestin. When he does return to his out-in-the-country, six-acre property in Newton, he has a wife, Ellen, and three kids—Bronson, 7; Shelly, 2; and Ellie, 3 months—ready to welcome him home. Stacy met and began dating Ellen, a former Crimson Tide volleyball player, during his second stint at The University in 1994.

With his trials of the early 1990s behind him, Stacy says he's happy with his life and career, although he admits the sports-loving side of him wouldn't mind jumping into the coaching profession in the future. Another of Stacy's goals is to complete his degree at The University. He came close to getting it in 1994 but is now considering changing his major from criminal justice to sociology in order to better equip himself to counsel others, especially young people.

His heart for kids and wanting to see them succeed is evident in his heavy involvement in the Destin YMCA. Stacy said he likes to share his own life experiences with kids so they will try to emulate the things he did right and refrain from making the mistakes he made.

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"The Lord has blessed me tremendously," Stacy said. "Sometimes I have self doubts and start thinking about all the things I didn't achieve in my professional football career and the things I don't have, but then I just remind myself of the things I did accomplish and the things I do have. The fact is, I can't change the past, but I can do something right now to impact my future. That's kind of my philosophy. I also like what Coach Stallings used to tell us, and I think it was something he might have heard from Coach Bryant: 'Tough times don't last, but tough people do.' You've just got to tough it out."

The antithesis of tough times for Stacy came in 1989 when everything it seemed went about as right as it could for him. After transferring to Alabama from Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College, Stacy burst on the scene with a record-setting performance in Alabama's season-opener against Memphis State. He ran 14 times for 169

yards and four touchdowns. He fit perfectly into what we were trying to do offensively under Homer Smith."

With Stacy spearheading Bama's ground attack and Hollingsworth orchestrating the passing attack, Alabama rolled to a 10-0 record and a number two national ranking before dropping the season-finale at Auburn. Alabama still earned a spot in the Sugar Bowl, where the Tide fell to national champion Miami, 33-25.

"I can't say enough about Coach Smith," Stacy said. "He basically turned Gary, (fullback) Kevin Turner and me into instant superstars. His offensive scheme was just so precise. Defenses never knew who was going to get the ball, and Gary was so smart in running the offense. We were like a machine. I remember being down 21-0 to Ole Miss in the first quarter, and we came back and won 62-27."

Smith knew he had something special in

"He was going to be a big part of our offense that year," Hollingsworth said of Stacy. "We missed him big-time that year."

Stacy's injury was just the beginning of a series of crippling early-season injuries that had a lot to do with the Tide's 0-3 start. The Tide did rebound to finish 7-5.

"I still think back to that game I got hurt and wonder how good we could have been that year if I had stayed healthy," Stacy said. "We were 10-2 the year before and we had so many guys returning. But that's the way life is—some things are meant to be and some things aren't."

Stacy received a medical redshirt in 1990 and returned to action in 1991. Although Stacy admits he lost some of his speed and quickness after the injury, he still put up more solid numbers—967 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns to go along with 178 yards receiving. Alabama finished 11-1, which included a 30-25 win over defending national champion Colorado in the Blockbuster Bowl.

Stacy said, "The next year Alabama won the national championship, and I like to think we were a part of helping set that up because of what we did in 1991."

During that era of Crimson Tide football, Stacy said, Alabama players went into every game fully believing they were going to win.

"Whether it was a tight game or not, we just knew the game was going to go our way," Stacy said. "Winning is a habit, and it became a habit for us. We never thought we would lose a game, and when you have that type of mind set, that's a powerful thing. In recent years, especially in games against Tennessee, it seems Alabama has found a way to lose."

After what he saw and heard at some of Alabama's spring practices this year, Stacy believes the Crimson Tide is well on its way to regaining that winning edge.

"I saw players starting to talk and act like they play for The University of Alabama," Stacy said. "I think Coach (Mike) Shula has done a great job in re-establishing our confidence. In recent years, it seemed Alabama went into games already struggling, already acting like it was behind, already feeling like the underdog. But this year I think our football team is going to surprise a lot of people."

Over the summer, Stacy got a chance to meet one of Alabama's incoming freshman running backs, Glen Coffee from Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

"I shared some ideas with him and gave him some advice and let him know what to expect at Alabama," Stacy said. "I couldn't have been more impressed by that young man. The way he talked and the questions he asked made me realize that he's going to be a great player."

Becoming as great a player as Stacy was at Alabama, however, won't be easy—for Coffee or any other running back. And as Gene Stallings will attest, it would be good if all Alabama players also aspired to be as good a person as Siran Stacy in life. ■



Photo: University of Alabama

yards and four touchdowns.

Stacy and, for that matter, the Alabama offense, never slowed down after that.

The Geneva, Alabama, native finished the year with 1,079 yards rushing and an SEC-leading 18 touchdowns—17 rushing and one receiving. His 317 all-purpose yards in Alabama's 47-30 thumping of Tennessee set a school-record. The 5-foot-11, 195-pounder was named a second-team All-America and was a consensus All-SEC selection.

"He was the all-around player," former Alabama quarterback Gary Hollingsworth said of his ex-teammate. "He was big enough and strong enough to run inside, and he was fast enough to run outside. He didn't have the best 40-yard dash time, but once he got in a game, no one could catch him. Siran could also catch

the ball almost as soon as he stepped on the practice field for the first time.

"Anybody who would have watched practice would have had him in the starting line-up in two days," Smith said. "He was the complete running back, and he had the motivation. He busted his butt to help our new quarterback Gary Hollingsworth. Siran was an excellent runner and receiver, and he was a smart player. He knew his assignments. He made it into professional football because of his completeness. I left Alabama loving that guy."

Had Smith still been at Alabama in 1990, he would have faced the difficult task of coming up with offensive schemes that didn't include the all-purpose, all-star running back. Stacy went down with a season-ending knee injury in Alabama's first game of the season.

# Fall Sports Schedules

## Football

Date	Opponent	Site	Central Time/TV*	Series Record
Sept. 3	Middle Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	*1:30 or 6:00/Fox	Alabama leads, 1-0-0
Sept. 10	Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa	6:45/ESPN2	Alabama leads, 33-6-2
Sept. 17	South Carolina	Columbia	2:30/CBS	Alabama leads, 10-2-0
Sept. 24	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	*2:30/CBS or 6:00/ESPN	Alabama leads, 9-6-0
Oct. 1	Florida	Tuscaloosa	*2:30/CBS	Alabama leads, 19-12-0
Oct. 15	Mississippi	Oxford	*11:30/J-P or 6:45/ESPN2	Alabama leads, 41-9-2
Oct. 22	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	*2:30/CBS	Alabama leads, 43-37-7
Oct. 29	Utah State (Homecoming)	Tuscaloosa	2:00/PPV	Alabama leads, 1-0-0
Nov. 5	Mississippi State	Starkville	*11:30/J-P or 6:45/ESPN2	Alabama leads, 71-15-3
Nov. 12	LSU	Tuscaloosa	*2:30/CBS or 6:00/ESPN	Alabama leads, 43-20-5
Nov. 19	Auburn	Auburn	*2:30/CBS	Alabama leads, 38-30-1
Dec. 3	SEC Championship Game	Atlanta	TBA/CBS	Alabama 2 wins, 3 losses

\*Time and/or television subject to change

## Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 20	Samford (scrimmage) @ Tulane Invitational	7:00
Aug. 26	@ Tulane	7:30
Aug. 28	North Dakota St @ New Mexico Tournament	Noon
Sept. 2	@ New Mexico	7:00
Sept. 4	Akron	TBA
Sept. 9	UAB	7:00
Sept. 11	Troy	1:00
Sept. 16	Nicholls State	7:00
Sept. 18	Mercer	1:00
Sept. 23	@ Florida	7:00
Sept. 25	@ South Carolina	2:00
Sept. 30	Kentucky	7:00
Oct. 2	Vanderbilt	1:00
Oct. 7	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Oct. 9	@ Mississippi State	1:00
Oct. 14	LSU	7:00
Oct. 16	Arkansas	Noon
Oct. 21	@ Georgia	7:00
Oct. 23	Tennessee	1:00
Oct. 28	Auburn	7:00
Nov. 3-6	SEC Tournament @ Orange Beach	
Nov. 11-28	NCAA Tournament @ TBA	

## Volleyball

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 26	@ Kansas	7:00
Aug. 27	vs. UMKC @ Kansas	Noon
	Bama Bash	
Sept. 2	Loyola-Chicago	12:30
Sept. 2	Indiana	7:00
Sept. 3	Oklahoma	TBA
Sept. 6	@ South Alabama	7:00
	Wisconsin-Milwaukee Invitational	
Sept. 9	Toledo	4:30
Sept. 10	Northern Iowa	11:00
Sept. 10	@ Wisconsin-Milwaukee	7:00
Sept. 14	Alabama A&M	7:00
	Birmingham-Southern Challenge	
Sept. 16-17	Alabama, Birmingham-Southern, Belmont, Jackson State	TBA
Sept. 21	@ Auburn	7:00
Sept. 25	@ Kentucky	12:30
Sept. 30	LSU	7:00
Oct. 2	Arkansas	1:30
Oct. 7	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Oct. 9	@ Mississippi State	2:00
Oct. 14	South Carolina	7:00
Oct. 16	Tennessee	1:30
Oct. 19	Auburn	7:00
Oct. 23	Ole Miss	1:30
Oct. 28	@ Arkansas	7:00
Oct. 30	@ LSU	1:30
Nov. 4	Florida	7:00
Nov. 6	Georgia	1:30
Nov. 11	@ Tennessee	6:00
Nov. 13	@ South Carolina	12:30
Nov. 18-20	SEC Championships @ Tuscaloosa	TBA
Nov. 23	@ Ball State	7:00
Dec. 1-17	NCAA Championships	TBA

## Men's Cross Country

Date	Event
Sept. 10	Brooks Twilight @ Memphis
Sept. 17	Crimson Classic
Sept. 30	@ Notre Dame Invitational
Oct. 15	Chili Pepper @ Arkansas
Oct. 29	SEC Championships @ LSU
Nov. 12	NCAA Regionals @ Florida
Nov. 21	NCAA Championships @ Indiana State

## Women's Cross Country

Date	Event
Sept. 2	Belmont Opener @ Nashville
Sept. 17	Crimson Classic
Sept. 24	Pre-SEC @ LSU
Oct. 8	@ Auburn Invitational
Oct. 15	Chili Pepper @ Arkansas
Oct. 29	SEC Championships @ LSU
Nov. 12	NCAA Regionals @ Florida
Nov. 21	NCAA Championships @ Indiana State

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